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# SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

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## Status of Kings Canyon National Park

AFTER all the splendid work done by the members of the Sierra Club in aiding the creation of the Kings Canyon National Park, they will naturally be interested in its present status. As the members have been advised, the bill was reported favorably by the Public Lands Committee of the House, but with an amendment added by enemies of the bill which would have thrown the whole area open to construction of reservoirs and development for power and irrigation purposes. This amendment was added because its proponents knew full well that the park advocates would prefer no park at all to having a park constantly threatened by such destructive possibilities. John Muir's name was also eliminated from the name of the park. Our members responded so splendidly to our request urging them to communicate with their Congressmen and ask that this highly objectionable power and irrigation feature be removed, that, when the bill was called up for a vote in the House, this clause was voted down by a large majority. Unfortunately the name "John Muir" was not restored because the feeling exists in Congress that the names of individuals should not be given to national parks. While the work John Muir has done for national parks is outstanding, and his early suggestion that this Kings River area should be made a national park places him in a unique position where an exception might

well be made in his case, we all know that John Muir would have been the last person to have insisted on any special name for any park where the primary purpose to be accomplished is to have that park established. As a consequence, rather than jeopardize a bill by additional controversial matters, it was deemed best to concentrate on the dangerous power and irrigation clause.

The bill, without this objectionable clause, passed the House and was automatically sent over to the Senate. In spite of the bitter antagonism which characterized votes on highly important legislation in the Senate in the closing days of the session, and consequent distraction of the attention of the Senators, the bill was referred to the Public Lands Committee of the Senate and after consideration was reported out with a "do pass" recommendation, concurred in by all members of the committee present when the committee vote was taken. This gave the bill a particularly favorable chance for passage by the Senate. When a bill is specially called up for passage during the closing hours of a session of the Senate, however, it must receive unanimous consent before a vote can be taken. One objecting senator can prevent a vote. Senator Pittman of Nevada objected to its consideration and automatically the bill was dropped from its place on the calendar. Senator Pittman was later persuaded to withdraw his ob-

jection, which we understand he did on the promise that he would be given time to voice his objections before a vote was taken, but in the face of other parliamentary objections which were made, as well as the lack of time, the bill could not be again brought before the Senate for a vote before the session ended.

While this outcome was most unfortunate, the situation is still most encouraging. The same Congress reconvenes next January, and all bills will have the same status in the new session that they had in the last session. As a consequence, the Kings Canyon National Park bill will not have to be again recommended by committees of the two houses nor will it again have to be passed by the House of Representatives. It will be called up in the Senate for a vote in due course, probably in January, 1940, with every chance that it will

be voted on favorably. Because the enemies of the establishment of this park will be active in the meantime in a last desperate effort to block its passage, our members should be equally vigilant and see that the Senators from their own and other states are persuaded to vote favorably on the bill, exactly as it passed the House and without any emasculating and objectionable amendments. Let each member constitute himself a committee of one to do all he can to bring about the final establishment of this outstanding park. We desire to express to our members our deep appreciation for the most effective work already done by our loyal supporters which has already resulted in bringing this greatly desired result so near to accomplishment.

WM. E. COLBY,  
*Secretary of Sierra Club*

## Report on the 1939 Outing

In the face of competition with divers forms of outings—saddle horse, burro, and knapsack trips—one might well wonder what was to become of The Outing. If anyone is searching for evidence of decadence in such a 38-year old institution as the High Trip, he must search for some time to come. For the statistically minded, the total man-days of participation in Club outings during 1939 exceeds the astonishing total of 7,400. And persons who arrived too late had to be turned away from every one of the outings. High Trip attendance was the greatest since 1932. All the trips promise to continue to do as well, as the Club progresses on a broader front than ever.

If the 1938 Outing was unique in the abundance of snow in the High Sierra, the recent High Trip was certainly unusual in the lack of it. The alpine vistas, the high water, the glissades that had been commonplace during the previous summer were but memories. Yet, strangely enough, the Sierra

seemed to have suffered not at all. There was still some of the 1938 snow on the peaks, packed now to the consistency of ice; there was ample water in the streams, the flowers could not have been finer; and although there is no adequate substitute for glissades on extensive snowbanks, this summer's long talus treks at least furnished opportunities for geologizing that are absent when rocks are under ten feet of snow. For the first three weeks the weather was quite a problem for anyone who had forecast a wet summer and daily showers at two o'clock. But the final week made up for any preceding deficiency in precipitation, and was most gratifying.

A light winter meant that the itinerary could be followed with no drastic changes; all the passes were crossed on schedule on trails clear of snow; the streams were easily forded, with bridges found where bridges were supposed to be. All enjoyed the new country made readily accessible by completion of the trail over Mather Pass, the final,

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high-country link in the John Muir Trail; but none seemed to enjoy the new trail more than the mules, who took great delight in running down into Upper Basin, loosening packs *en route*. A slight change in itinerary permitted a stay of two full days at Bench Lake, certainly one of the most beautiful campsites of the trip. For those two days, what with bandanna and art shows and a water pageant, camp assumed the festive appearance of a prospering resort, with the distinction being that when the group had left, the mountains, too, were left—just as they had been found.

Mountaineering flourished. The grand total of some 440 man-days of climbing indicates that not only was Norman Clyde busy as usual on routes up the major summits, but that other smaller groups were clearing up some of the mysteries of the unclimbed peaks. Quantitative climbing highlight was the ascent of Split Mountain by 76 persons on two consecutive days. Perhaps there should be included in the mountaineering notes the fact that 48 persons spent a night, in the face of uncertain weather, at the Muir Shelter. Those knowing the hut capacity need not be reminded that the 48 slept outside on the rocks.

As authorized at the May meeting of the Board of Directors, motion pictures in nat-

ural color were taken during the several Club outings to serve to illustrate the proposed Kings Canyon National Park. Thanks to the perseverance of Dick Leonard, who was unable to remain for the entire four weeks, the sequence filmed during the first two weeks was edited and was being shown to members of the United States Senate before the High Trip was over. The complete picture should be ready for Sierra Club showings shortly after mid-September, and should materially aid the Club's efforts to enlist the support of other organizations in creation of the new national park.

Sierra Club outings continue to be ventures in co-operation, and each successful outing is a tribute to the co-operative spirit of the High Trippers, the commissary and packers, the administrative officers of the mountain region traversed. Special thanks are due to Inyo National Forest Supervisor Roy Boothe for his help in accommodating so large a number at the North and South Lake public camps, to Robert L. Brown, of the Inyo-Mono Association, who greatly assisted tracing several tons of "lost" groceries, and to all those on the Outing, who remembered that the thing to do is to enjoy the mountains completely, thereby making any trip a success.

DAVID R. BROWER

## The Burro Trips

The burro trips are no longer experiments, as they were last year. We feel that we know how to conduct instructive trips to teach members how to plan, conduct, and enjoy inexpensive mountain travel for small parties.

Our first objective is to have a good time. We certainly succeeded. Josephine Smith lost five pounds just from laughing, and Pauline Armstead sang songs all the way up Lyell and back.

Our second objective is to learn as much as possible. Those who toed the mark suc-

ceeded here, also. Dick Felter can throw five different pack hitches. Pauline Armstead can bake birthday cakes in a reflector oven which are not at all bad. Rolf Ready can tie right- and left-handed bowlines. Allan Lee can make a stubborn donkey go (almost). Betty Fawkes knows how to make cinnamon rolls and how *not* to make soup. Caleb Warner can sew torn kyacks with a shoe awl and throw the difficult saddle hitch. Pete Burd can track a burro over rough country. George Templeton can build a fire with wet wood, and Bob Tap-

scott can build a stretcher for a pack saddle.

We can enjoy the mountains more by knowing them better. A camper who has learned to be curious and keep his eyes and ears open has learned a lot. We know what gives red snow its color, why there are boulders on top of Lumbert Dome, which pine cones mature in one year, how old an eight-inch trout is, how bats locate insects in the dark, how pine nuts are planted by chipmunks, what mammals live in talus slopes, what gophers do in the winter, what animal eats cat's paw seeds, and what kind of bark the porcupine likes.

We packed a lot of experiences into those two-week trips. We crossed bergschrunds, roped down overhangs, forded streams up to the animals' sides, crossed talus slopes by flashlight, rock-hopped on wet granite, prac-

ticed artificial respiration and splinting, and glissaded on glaciers.

We saw some fine country, too. The first and third parties went over Donohue and Island passes to Agnew Meadow, and returned to Tuolumne Meadows via Gem Lake, Koip Pass and Mono Pass. The second and last groups chose to go north to Benson Lake, Kerrick Canyon, Burro Pass, Matterhorn Canyon, and Young Lakes. Our climbs included Matterhorn, Whorl, Conness, Lyell, Banner, Ritter, Rogers, and Koip Crest.

Although the leaders as well as the party members have much to learn, and we don't feel the trips are perfect, all who have taken part agree that the burro trips are hard to beat. It is gratifying that so many members are anxious to become independent mountaineers who can "do it right."

MILTON HILDEBRAND

## The First Saddle Horse Trip

The Outing Committee has had great difficulty in establishing the name "Saddle Horse Trip" ever since the evening when Ray Montrose, by some chance, referred to the ultimate in Club outings as the "High Horse Trip." Oblivious to any attempt to create a class distinction, 28 riders embarked on the first saddle trip sponsored by the Club, and thoroughly enjoyed twelve days in the High Sierra traveling from Sawmill Pass, over Glen, Forester, and finally out over Army Pass. Four days of rather persistent rainfall, including one night unusually damp for the Sierra, served only to whet the party's enthusiasm for the week of perfect weather that followed. All the claims of the joys of riding mountain trails, heralded to the point of exaggeration, one might suppose, in the Saddle Trip announcement, were found to be but mild versions of the real thing. The meals were sumptuous. The fifty-pound dunage limit could hardly exclude any of the ordinary comforts. But alas! the mountain-

earing. One might well imagine the mental approach to peaks that would be found in persons exposed to such luxuries. This, indeed, was the situation discovered by the knapsacking rock-climbers, when, at the Milestone camp rendezvous, they accepted some of Martin Brady's meals in exchange for leading a party up Milestone Mountain. Mrs. Roy Rutledge, of the Prairie Club of Chicago, was the only one among the forty-odd riders (including their leader, who discovered he must shoe horses) to make the ascent. It is unfortunate that "Ike" Livermore is still in the mountains at the time this *Bulletin* goes to press, for he could doubtless have contrived to include in this account, as a further mountaineering accomplishment of his trip, the mass saddle ascent of Mount Whitney. A rock-climber is not so lenient.

If the riders approached their peaks with reluctance or not at all, the opposite was certainly true of their regard for commissary. To one passing through one of the camps it

would be difficult to distinguish those who were officially in commissary from those who were not. All lent a gallant and willing hand, with a complete interest in the welfare of the trip. Perhaps that is why Ike was encouraged to present the final and one of the most interesting features of the trip. Seated around the final campfire at Carroll Creek enjoying Martin's prestidigitatorian proclivities, the group should have been prepared for anything, but was nevertheless astonished to ob-

serve to the north and east a colorful display of the aurora borealis. Of course, the knapsackers enjoyed the same phenomenon from their final camp on Shepherd Creek, and cannot concede that it was entirely arranged for the High-Horsers; however to leader "Ike" Livermore must go full credit not only for a most successful trail-riding trip, but also for arranging to have the Northern Lights shown south of Lone Pine.

D. R. B.

## The Rock-Climbers' Knapsack Trip

With the aid of the experience gained on the previous knapsack trip, the Bay Chapter Rock-Climbing Section, under the auspices of the Outing Committee, this year planned another Knapsack trip into the Sierra, with the purpose in mind of proving that such trips are a necessary and enjoyable part of the Club program. The itinerary started July 30 with a back-pack from Onion Valley over Kearsarge Pass to Kearsarge Lakes. After two days of climbing among the Kearsarge Pinnacles the party packed down Bubbs Creek, and up East Creek to Castilleja Lake, where a three-day climbing camp was made; then over "Lucy's Foot Pass" (between Mounts Ericsson and Geneva) to Milestone Creek, where the second week's food cache was located. Following a two-day visit with the Saddle Horse Trippers, camp was moved to Tyndall Creek for ascents of the 14,000-foot peaks, Tyndall, Barnard, and Williamson. On Saturday, August 12, the glorious two weeks came to an end as the group de-

scended over Shepherd Pass to the road that would return it to civilization.

The trip was ably led by Dave Brower; the party consisted of DeWitt Allen, Earl Jessen, Edward Koskinen, Harold H. Leich, Fritz Lippmann, David Nelson, Hervey Voge, Ted Waller, and Don M. Woods, with Norman Clyde accompanying the group. As an indication of the success of the trip, this year's climbing more than doubled that of last year, the climbers averaging 11.3 peaks for the two weeks. Many new climbs were made in the region of Mounts Stanford and Ericsson, in spite of repeated storms. There were no mishaps of any sort. The packs, although exceeding 50 pounds on the first day, were no inconvenience, particularly in an itinerary that provided so many days of climbing without them. The members of the trip are unanimous in acclaiming the outing a success, and are anxiously looking forward to the next one.

EDWARD W. KOSKINEN

## The 1940 Outing

We have all been greatly interested in the long campaign of the Sierra Club for creation of a Kings Canyon National Park. We were fortunate this year in being able to travel through nearly all of the northern portion

of the proposed park down as far as Woods Creek and Sawmill Pass. Next summer the High Trip will cover all of the remainder of the park with the exception of Tehipite Valley. It was in 1902 that the Club first held

an outing in the Kings Canyon; thirty-eight years later, a multi-million-dollar State Highway will have been completed into what has been wilderness, and officially opened to travel. Let us be there to celebrate, each in his own way—some happily, and some with sorrow—this irrevocable event.

Our own property at Zumwalt Meadows will be our headquarters for the first few days, where we may become acclimated and have a last opportunity to enjoy and explore the Kings Canyon before the last shreds of its wilderness character are destroyed by man, possibly forever. Our first move will be an easy one, to Paradise Valley for a day or so, and then up Woods Creek to Rae Lakes to enjoy the high country for miles around. Glen Pass, Bullfrog Lake and the Kearsarge Pinnacles are always beautiful and time will be available to enjoy them before going on to a longer stay at Vidette Meadows. There we trade two-weekers by an easy trip down Bubbs Creek to the first Kings Canyon Campsite.

After a short trip to Center Basin close up under the north face of 13,000-foot *Forester* Pass we will cross the Pass into Sequoia National Park and the Kern River watershed. Without attempting to cover the Mount Whitney country and all of the southern Sierra in one trip, we will go directly from Forester Pass to the exceptionally beautiful camp on Milestone Creek. By spending a little more time at spots such as this and the Kern-Kaweah, we can more thoroughly enjoy the country and not have too fast a trip. Those with extra ambition have never had trouble in getting to see additional sights. Returning to the proposed Kings Canyon Park by Colby Pass, we will see the extreme southern portion along Roaring River, Sphinx Creek and finally descend Bubbs Creek to the cars again. No shuttling next year.

Details as to the High Horse, Burro and Knapsack trips will be announced as soon as it appears probable that leadership will be available.

RICHARD M. LEONARD

### Annual Photograph Exhibit

The annual photograph exhibit will be held as follows:

*October 2 to 10* at the Club headquarters, 1050 Mills Tower, 220 Bush Street, *San Francisco*. In addition to the regular hours, the Club rooms will be open Saturday afternoon, October 7.

*October 14 to 20* at the headquarters of the Southern California Chapter, Room 315, 751 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles.

*October 27 and 28* under the auspices of the Loma Prieta Chapter, at *Palo Alto*.

It is hoped that all who took photographs on the 1939 Sierra Club outing, the burro trips, the saddle-horse trip, and the knapsack

trip, will exhibit their albums, for in each collection there are sure to be pictures of special interest not to be found elsewhere. Members of the Club who took photographs this summer on other trips in the Sierra or in other mountain regions are also invited to send in their albums.

It has long been the custom for exhibitors to permit members of the Club to obtain pictures at a slight margin above cost. For this purpose it is requested that each photograph be numbered and that the price be stated. Orders will be placed through the Club office and will be forwarded after the close of the exhibit.

### Exhibitions in Club Rooms

An exhibition of photographs taken by Cedric Wright on the 1939 Sierra Club Outing will be held from September 15 to Oc-

tober 2, and pen and ink sketches by Albert Marshall, from October 2 to 14, in the Sierra Club rooms, 1050 Mills Tower.



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